WISDOM

The Wisdom of Solomon

14

1611 King James Version

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WISDOM

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The Wisdom of Solomon 14

14:1 Again, one preparing himself to sail, and about to pass through the raging waves, calleth upon a piece of wood more rotten than the vessel that carrieth him.
14:2 For verily desire of gain devised that,

and the workman built it by his skill:
14:3 But thy providence, O Father, governeth it: for thou hast made a way in the Sea, and a safe path in the waves:
14:4 Shewing that thou canst save from all danger: yea though a man went

to Sea without art.
14:5 Nevertheless
thou wouldest not
that the works of thy
wisdom should be
idle, and therefore
do men commit their
lives to a small
piece of wood, and
passing the rough
sea in a weak
vessel, are saved.
14:6 For in the old

time also when the proud giants perished, the hope of the world governed by thy hand, escaped in a weak vessel, and left to all ages a seed of generation.

14:7 For blessed is the wood, whereby righteousness cometh.

14:8 But that which is made with hands is cursed, as well it, as he that made it: he, because he made it, and it, because being corruptible it was called God.
14:9 For the ungodly and his ungodliness are both alike hateful unto God.
14:10 For that which

is made, shall be punished together with him that made it.
14:11 Therefore even upon the idols of the Gentiles shall there be a visitation: because in the creature of God they are become an abomination and stumbling blocks to

the souls of men,
and a snare to the
feet of the unwise.
14:12 For the
devising of idols
was the beginning
of spiritual
fornication, and the
invention of them
the corruption
of life.
14:13 For neither were
they from the

beginning, neither shall they be for ever. 14:14 For by the vain glory of men they entered into the world, and therefore shall they come shortly to an end. 14:15 For a father afflicted with untimely mourning, when he hath made an image of his child

soon taken
away,now honoured
him as a god, which
was then a dead
man, and delivered
to those that were
under him,
ceremonies and
sacrifices.
14:16 Thus in process
of time an ungodly
custom grown
strong was kept as a

law, and graven images were worshipped by the commandments of kings,

14:17 Whom men could not honour in presence, because they dwelt far off, they took the counterfeit of his visage from far, and made an express

image of a king whom they honoured, to the end that by this their forwardness, they might flatter him that was absent, as if he were present.

14:18 Also the singular diligence of the artificer did help to set forward the ignorant to more

superstition.
14:19 For he, peradventure willing to please one in authority, forced all his skill to make the resemblance of the best fashion.
14:20 And so the multitude allured by the grace of the work, took him now for a god, which a

little before was but honoured as a man.
14:21 And this was an occasion to deceive the world: for men serving either calamity or tyranny, did ascribe unto stones, and stocks, the incommunicable Name.
14:22 Moreover this was not enough for

them, that they erred in the knowledge of God, but whereas they lived in **the great war of ignorance**, those so great plagues called they peace.

14:23 For whilst they slew their children in sacrifices, or

used secret ceremonies, or made revellings of strange rites
14:24 They kept neither lives nor marriages any longer undefiled: but either one slew another traiterously, or grieved him by adultery:
14:25 So that there

reigned in all men without exception, blood, manslaughter, theft, and dissimulation, corruption, unfaithfulness, tumults, perjury,
14:26 Disquieting of good men, forgetfulness of good turns, defiling of souls, changing of kind,

disorder in marriages, adultery, and shameless uncleanness.

14:27 For the worshipping of idols not to be named, is the beginning, the cause, and the end of all evil.

14:28 For either they are mad when they be merry, or

prophesy lies, or live unjustly, or else lightly forswear themselves.
14:29 For insomuch as their trust is in idols, which have no life, though they swear falsely, yet they look not to be hurt. 14:30 Howbeit for both causes

shall they be justly punished: both because they thought not well of God, giving heed unto idols, and also unjustly swore in deceit, despising holiness.

14:31 For it is not the power of them by whom they swear: but it is the just

vengeance of sinners, that punisheth always the offence of the ungodly.